

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Vigil in Ashland

By Linda Sturgeon

“Global Suicide: Nuclear Reactors, Waste, Weapons”

The dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, and the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima nuclear plant in northern Japan in 2011 will be commemorated during the annual Hiroshima-Nagasaki Vigil in downtown Ashland August 6 through 9. The dangers of nuclear weapons and power plants will also be addressed at this 27th annual vigil in Ashland.



The Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony for the vigil will begin with the lighting of a memorial candle at 8 a.m. Monday, August 6 on the lawn at the entrance to Lithia Park. A moment of silence will follow, exactly 67 years after the bombing of Hiroshima.

The candle is lighted annually in remembrance of the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki blasts, of the Chernobyl and Three Mile Island accidents, and now of the Fukushima disaster. Victims of all aspects of the nuclear cycle, including those who have died or become ill while mining, processing, testing, installing or otherwise being exposed to nuclear weapons, reactors, and nuclear explosions and waste materials will also be honored. Hazardous conditions continue at nuclear power plants both in the U. S. and elsewhere.



Paula Sohl, Associate Minister of the United Church of Christ Congregational, will lead the opening ceremony. Ashland was declared a nuclear-free zone in 1982 by a vote of the citizens. In 1998 the city joined the international Mayors for Peace organization, which includes 5,298 cities in 153 countries.

The Performers in the Plaza during the vigil include:

The Rogue Valley Peace Choir Ensemble and 2006 Japan Journey Choir. Members will sing at 6:30 p.m. on the opening day, August 6.

Masako Cross, a native of Japan and a singer and songwriter who emphasizes themes of universal love and peace, will sing at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, August 7.

The Whistling Elk Drum group will perform at 6 p.m., also on Tuesday. This Native American group is part of the Red Earth Descendants community, based in Ashland.

“Nuclear Maze” educational display

The public is invited to explore a “Nuclear Maze” on the Plaza after the opening ceremony. This educational display contains photos and text, created to teach the history of nuclear weapons and their impact on communities in the past and the present. This year the maze includes a new display, Strong Children, art work created by children of the Fukushima disaster area.

Occupy Ashland

By Keith Haxton

Occupy Wall Street (OWS) and the “Occupy Movement” it inspired is vast and far reaching beyond my ability to observe or analyze. In fact it still continues today, across the globe, making changes in many important ways that are too numerous to count. Its motivations are also too various to quantify and to say it was motivated out of discontent, anger, or frustration is far too small a scope. It was inspired by and helped to create many other movements that don’t carry its name. Therefore, to speak of Occupy I must first narrow the discussion to the Occupy in my own town, which I helped to create and know intimately, known as Occupy Ashland (OA).

When the planning for OA first began it was not referred to as that, as OWS had not begun and the organizers of OA had no knowledge of the planned protests on Wall Street. OA was scheduled to take place in conjunction with a protest in Washington D.C. known to most as “Stop the Machine, Create a New World” or some derivation thereof.

Occupy Ashland began as coalition of organizers, activists and community volunteers (most being a combination thereof) planning a two day event. It began with a fiery, rousing speech given by our state representative, Peter Buckley, delivered to a crowd of hundreds, which remains our most watched YouTube video (find it by typing Occupy Ashland in the search-bar), followed by our Mayor, John Stromberg and many others.

Over the next two days there was live music, inspiring speeches, much food and plenty of memorable conversations. The General Assemblies (GAs) where massive and frankly disorganized. But what happened on those first two days and nights was so intense, so inspiring and electrifying that I find it hard to describe. Revolutionary ideas

Information, handouts, petitions and action opportunities will be available. The maze will be open around the clock as the vigil continues until 7 p.m. Wednesday August 8.

The Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony, led by Paula Sohl, will be held in the Japanese Garden in Lithia Park at 7 p.m. on Thursday August 9, the anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki. The Japanese Association of Southern Oregon (JASO) will sing. This group formed in March 2011 to educate the public about the Japanese culture and to raise money to help victims of the earthquake/tsunami/radiation disaster in the Fukushima area. JASO members will also be on the Plaza demonstrating the folding of origami peace cranes during the vigil.

Those attending the closing ceremony will be invited to float sunflowers, the symbol of the nuclear-free movement, down the stream that flows through the Japanese Garden. Richard Williams will play the shakuhachi, a traditional Japanese flute.

In conjunction with the vigil there will be a free showing of the film The Strangest Dream on Tuesday August 7 at 7 p.m. in Lidgate Hall, Medford Congregational Church of Christ, 1801 E. Jackson St., Medford.

This is the story of Joseph Rotblat, one of the very few scientists to leave the Manhattan Project, builders of the first atomic bomb, for moral reasons.

He was a nuclear physicist who spent much of his life trying to ensure that ethics played a role in scientific research. In recognition of his work he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995. Organizers of the showing are the Citizens for Peace and Justice, Medford.

Lead sponsor of the vigil is the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) of Ashland.

“We hold these events to inform ourselves and others of the horrors of nuclear war and its devastating effects on innocent populations and the planet, to remember the victims for all aspects of the nuclear cycle, and to provide opportunities for expression, dialogue, and action,” said Jill Mackie of the Ashland branch.

Additional sponsors include Peace House, the Rogue Valley Peace Choir, Citizens for Peace & Justice, Red Earth Descendants, Rogue Valley Peace Veterans, Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice, Collateral Repair Project, Veterans for Peace Rogue Valley Chapter 156, One Sunny Day Initiatives, Ashland United Church of Christ Congregational, the Social Justice Action Committee of Rogue Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, South Mountain Friends Meeting, Japanese Association of Southern Oregon, and SOU United Nations Club.

Founded in 1915, WILPF is the oldest peace organization in the United States and has branches in 37 countries. WILPF acts to promote peace, social justice, racial equality and women’s rights. Past members include Nobel Peace Prize laureates Jane Addams, Dr. Linus Pauling and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

For more information contact Jill Mackie, 541-488-9286

were being thrown about, political dialog was bountiful, new connections and often friendships were made. There was live reporting by the local news stations, massive video recording, radio interviews, live streaming and newspaper was created. All during the first two days.

Then things really got moving. Everyday was a chance to change a life, a challenge to maintain the protest, a feat of courage and endurance. There were long sleepless nights, many laughs and satirical jokes, tough decisions being made, consensus being had and then being split apart, but what I like most was the people and the sharing of stories. While some were discovering new ideas and destroying old paradigms others were having the egos bruised and their feelings hurt. It was a time like no other in my life.

Eventually we had to move off the plaza for many reasons, not least of which was the encroaching winter. We continue to this day to have GAs and discuss what we find to be important. With the spring warmth came a renewed life in our GAs, but I would be remiss if I said it was the same. It seems we have outgrown our now weekly meetings. Many have found specific causes and organizations to take part in. Some have grown weary with the times and others disappointed with the lack of results.

What I see most now is a maturity. No longer are we as blissful nor pessimistic. We have gained experience in our trials and now know the magnitude of our aims. No longer will standing on the sidewalk or in the plaza with a sign alone suffice even the most miniscule of our hopes. We know this is going to be difficult. We know our process had many misgivings, but we are humans, our most formidable tool is our ability to adapt and so we will.

Building communities, one issue at a time.

CUBA NOTES– Part 3

(aka my own rum diaries)

~ a multi-part series about my Cuba impressions from a month in country

by Karen Jeffery

CUBAN FOOD

When first considering Cuba travel, it was to research a cookbook. In the first week that pipe dream flies out the window. This is a land that lives on sugar, from tropical fruits and fruit drinks, sodas, sweet cocktails, sweet pastries (fried dough and sugar), ice cream, sugar-water, coco-ruchos1. Seriously, the sugar load is everywhere. On the streets, in the casas and restaurants, in shops, on carts. It carries a deep history too, a history of slavery, so important to the early sugar years of Spanish and US sugar barons2, later the Russians. The revolution destroys racism along with classism, and Cuba enjoys a very mixed society today. Meanwhile I'm jonesing for some greens, veggies, a potato chip...anything unsweetened.

Beyond the sugar fixation, I am underwhelmed by my experience of Cuban food. It is usually over-cooked, over-salted, unimaginative, and boring. Maybe it's a lack of food choices3; a Cuban friend loads her luggage with spices and cookware when returning home. Still, being a cook, I'm sure I can turn out different and better-tasting fare from the same ingredients. It's the sameness that bores me. Same same same, everywhere: pescado, pollo, or pork (fried or grilled, over-cooked, oversalted), with shredded cabbage and a slice of tomato and cucumber (salad), hard white rice, dull beans, coffee. Nearly everywhere.

We get in the habit of ordering breakfast at the casa (usually \$3), and for the most part it is very standard fare: a plate of fresh tropical fruit (banana, pineapple, mango or papaya), a 'tortilla' - flattened overcooked scrambled egg, bad Cuban bread (wanna be French baguette that misses by a mile), and strong Cuban coffee (espresso or with hot milk). I start saving part of my dinners for breakfast or take to the street, where for \$1 cuc I can usually find a great cup of joe and a pulled pork or grilled jamon y queso sandwich. There is the exception, but we'll wait for Trinidad.

We duck into Cafe Neruda on the Malecon one afternoon, the Chilean poet being one of my favorites. The overcooked fish and overcharging (three times) compete with the bad food and dull service. Two thumbs down. Pablo, a gastronomist and foodie, would roll over in his grave. We had been warned (thanks, Conner4) to check all bills carefully, as overcharging and mistakes are 'normal'. We receive two correct bills during our entire stay! We also learn that 'enchilado langosto' is NOT a lobster enchilada; \$3 fried chicken and fries down on the port can be a great choice; .50 pizza at the bus station is a steal; and sometimes taking that handout on the corner is worthwhile - as in Al Medina, an Arab restaurant right off Plaza d'Armas, where a plate of falafel, dolmas, pita and hummus, fish ceviche, salad, and a mohito are \$6.50. The amazing D'Gala trio serenades as well.

Overall we run into very few exceptions to dull food - an overpriced veal parmesan (billed as veal picatta) at an 'Italian' paladar in Varadero, a perfectly-cooked \$12 lobster dinner at Dona Eutemia's in Habana Vieja (their traditional ropa vieja5 is superb as well). We take a horse wagon to Aché, a paladar in Cienfuegos, and are treated to the best grilled chicken 'complete' meal anywhere. This great experience (from service to food) is capped off with melt-in-your-mouth coconut flan and an introduction to carajillo - a rich Cuban espresso with Havana Club aged rum (anejo). Maria's lobster dinner in Puerto Padre comes with side dishes like beets and carrots, really beautiful rice and beans, camarones and fried bananas. Yum!

We enjoy another memorable culinary experience in Trinidad6 at Casa Chocolate Y Dailanis, 608 Frank Pais. Definitely our best casa of the entire trip, for space, comfort, location, and value. Better yet, the husband (Chocolate) is a chef, formerly of the fancy hotel on the hill. His kitchen is stocked with herbs and spices, cookware, knives, food processor, fish steamer, pressure cooker, and other tools of the trade unseen in previous cucinas. His pride and creativity serve up each morning and evening, as we enjoy all our meals there.

Our first dinner consists of delicious fish soup, camarones a la casa (shrimp, cooked delicately in a magical garlic/herb/tomato sauce), luscious rice and beans (we

peek into the kitchen midday as he is seasoning the beans), mashed sweet potatoes (a welcomed relief from fried yucca), long-bean and tomato salad, little eggplant divines, fruit salad, tiramisu, coffee - and all in portions large enough to provide lunch the next day. \$7.00

Breakfast is just as delicious: huevos suprema - eggs, gently scrambled and perfectly seasoned with red peppers, green onions, and bacon, fruit plate (mangoes are going off in Trinidad), fruit smoothie, yogurt, ham and cheese plate (sandwiches for later), and the second best coffee in Cuba. [The best at a little café near Guantanamo, where the bus stops for a quick break. The espresso is so fabulous, I buy one for the driver. Fifty cents.]

On our last night there, Chocolate pulls out all the stops with a large whole parrot fish (caught that morning on the bay at La Boca), cooked to perfection...and all the sides, chocolate helados, and coffee. After lucking into Chocolate's cooking, I almost revive the idea of an island cookbook, but the revival is short-lived. Still he remains our favorite, just as his casa is.

Let's not forget the coppelias - state-run ice cream parlors, available in nearly every town, where ten to twenty cents (in local currency) buys a scoop of creamy coconut, dark chocolate,

fresa (strawberry), and a few seasonal choices of delicious helados. We remain on the lookout for them throughout our trip. And are reminded of them at the Cancun airport on re-entry, where a Hagen Daas is \$7.50 per scoop!

Trinidad remains one of my favorite places, in memory as it was in experience. Time stopped around the mid 1800's in this beautiful classic Spanish colonial town. Bicycles carry men, women, children, as do pedicabs and cabarello carts. A motorcycle. A rare car, banned from the centre. Mostly people walk, talk, greet neighbors. A horse waits, cart filling, while men (Chocolate joins in) load it with chunks of cement, old bricks, debris from the house shell across from our casa. A remodel is underway, probably a new casa particulares. Above the rooftops - the Sierra del Escambray mountains, a sprawling sea on the horizon, clouds dancing. Mango trees dangle hundreds of ripening orbs. A tangle of electrical wires compete with fluttering laundry on tiled rooftops, as a man releases dozens of birds just before sunset. They circle and return.

Early morning, a man peddles by. "Pain, pain caliente," he sings as door after door opens along the narrow street for his hot bread. A horse-drawn cart passes slowly, with chunks of pork and whole chickens loaded on the back. A pedi-cab features pineapples, stalks of bananas, papaya the size of footballs, baskets of mangoes. Another has tomatoes and cabbages. On the street, food is delivered door to door. Neighbors come out to greet each other, welcome the day. Children walk to school in their red and white uniforms, laughing, happy.

NOTES

1. A confection found in Baracoa made of grated coconut, fruit or chocolate flavored, and sugar-sweetened so severely it can't be eaten.
2. By the 1880s over 80% of sugar exports went to the US, and large island plantations were owned by Americans.
3. Citizens line up for their food rations: arroz, frijoles, huevos, sugar, alcohol, tobacco...
4. Conner Gorry, former US writer, now living in Cuba. Writes for the government, Lonely Planet, her own blog (Here is Havana: <http://hereishavana.wordpress.com/>) and has a fab iPhone app, Havana Good Time, which works even when not online. Two thumbs up!
5. Ropa vieja is arguably Cuba's national dish. Spanish for 'old clothes', it's a well-seasoned shredded beef dish, popular throughout the country. Think pulled pork. Served over rice or chickpeas, or in a bun.
6. Lovely colonial city, tucked between the sea and mountains, founded in 1514.

Look for previous accounts in last issues. Watch for Part 4 in Issue 16 of the Ashland Free Press.

Raven's Reviews ★★★★★ Uncle Food's Diner

By Raven Playfaire

The food at Uncle Food's diner is worthy of a 3.5 or 4-star rating as a restaurant and the amazing thing it's all completely FREE! If you are homeless in Jackson County then you probably already know how wonderful Uncle Food's Diner truly is! Every Tuesday Maren performs magic in the kitchen at the Methodist church in Ashland, where Peace House and the church together host one of the most amazing free meals I've ever had anywhere! The only reason this food wouldn't get a 5 star rating is that the food is all donated, and no one is going to donate Lobster. what Maren does with potato soup and clam sauce pasta is nothing short of pure culinary artistry! The soup was so good it was featured at Peace House's Empty Bowls fundraiser last spring.

We would like to invite you and everyone you know to come and occupy Uncle Foods Diner on Tuesday, August 21 at 4 pm. We're hosting a

fundraiser for Uncle Foods. Maren's goal is to have enough money to buy a new grill for grilling her delicious roasted vegetables. Even having someone donating a grill would quite thrilling!

We want to honor all the volunteers and their wonderful work in feeding the homeless by sharing a meal with the homeless and with others in the community who stand the in solidarity and support of our local homeless. There is nowhere else in Ashland where there is a stronger sense of community among the citizens of Ashland who are both housed and un-housed. And whether or not you come and commune with us over a meal, you can always help out by donating money, food or service as a server and helping with set-up and clean-up. Just remember that if you come down, you get to sample the wonderful food and meet some really neat people!



Health Care Lessons Slow To Learn

By Vanessa Houk

Her last weeks must have been miserable as she tried to self-treat wounds from a car accident. She told friends that her neck hurt and that she knew she needed to see a doctor, but without health insurance and little to no money to speak of, it must have seemed as though making a neck brace was better than nothing and besides she had four little kids to take care of. There weren't enough hours in the day to focus on herself. Her youngest was three and the oldest merely eleven.

She couldn't have known that self-care would cost her life and leave those four little kids without a mother to look after them. In May, Maria Victoria McDonald's lifeless body was discovered by friends in her apartment. At first Medford police suspected that McDonald was a victim of homicide, but after an investigation they determined that there was no forced entry into her

locked apartment, no suicide note or other clue and no motive to explain why she was found strangled to death. There was just a makeshift neck brace fashioned from a t-shirt that investigators say cut off her circulation and choked her.

Not a homicide and yet perhaps we should put the health industry on trial for her death? Perhaps we should prosecute an industry which puts profits before people and has the blood of millions of Americans on its hands?

Some readers will think, "Oh, how sad, but that can't happen to me. I have insurance." So did 44 year old Michelle Weseloh who suffered three brain aneurysms, bleeding of the brain and underwent several surgeries. Doctors sent her home less than 24 hours after the third surgery and within a few hours, Michelle who was a home loan officer and mother of one was found by her eleven year old daughter, a victim of a massive stroke, a victim of an insurance company which put profit over the value of her life.

Money. It seems so callous to have to talk about

money while thinking of the deaths of these two young mothers. I know their families cannot put a price on what they've lost and yet American health care is decided on the basis of profits and losses and the health care industry has mastered the business of wealth.

Let's look at some numbers. From 2002 to 2010 consumers were hit with higher premiums as costs rose by 97% and at the same time the profits of the top ten health insurance companies rose 428 %. Those numbers should spin around in your mind while you consider the Los Angeles Times reported that the top executives of the top five insurance companies (Cigna, Humana, UnitedHealth, Well-Point, and Aetna) were paid almost \$200 million dollars in 2009.

Almost two-thirds of all bankruptcies are caused by unpaid medical bills and three quarters of people who go bankrupt have health insurance at the time of injury. Those numbers represent too many broken people and too many crushed dreams.

What can we do to fix this?

First we have to collectively decide that health care is a human right.

We need to get insurance companies out of health care and let that industry insure houses, boats and cars and leave medical decisions to doctors within a single-payer health care system where costs are controlled and everyone has access to the care they need.

Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO) is working for secure, affordable health care for each and every Oregonian. We believe the best way to do this is through a universal, single-payer health care system for every resident of the state (and nation). With everyone in the same insurance pool, we can lower costs while providing more comprehensive services than what most residents receive now.

Health Care for all Oregon
www.hcao.org
Oregon Single Payer Campaign
www.singlepayeroregon.org
Physicians for a National Health Program
www.pnhp.org

Plaza Upgrade Demonstrates Divided Values

By Keith Haxton

First, it should be noted that the city council minutes read, "Councilor Lemhouse reiterated the motion was not for a redesign of the Plaza but an RFP [Request For Proposal] to improve landscaping and furniture..."

However, after attending the meetings for public input as well as a council study session pertaining to the proposed plaza project it can obviously be stated that this is a redesign. This, as well as other comments made by councilors, makes it difficult to determine the intentions of the Council.

The public input on the design plans, much like our community, has been very diverse and often contradictory. There seem to be two predominant schools of thought when considering a new design for the plaza. One is tourist based, includes the info booth, makes it more of a "pass through" area, which involves less comfortable seating and doesn't invite what is referred to as "characters" or "transients," (the definitions of such are beyond my capacity to articulate here). The other is resident centered, involves a stage, comfortable seating with backs, and usually excludes the info booth. Across

the board, most people want more shading and seating, and don't like the dirt showing or the unmaintained benches. What I have left out are the many shades of gray in the public comments. I have left out much of this ambiguity because a lot of citizens made comments that they don't like the "characters in the plaza" but do like and want more of the very conditions which bring them to the plaza.

This is the crux of the issue. If your desire is to attract tourists, you're going to get all kinds of them. When conditions allow for ease of movement and great amounts of wealth in commerce, you can't pick who shows up. The same events that attract

high-class tourists to Ashland also attract people who make a living off of the tourist's money. Whether those people are specialty shop owners, servers at a restaurant, or panhandlers who reside near those venues, cannot be chosen in a free society unless you use segregation or discrimination.

Find out more about the plaza upgrade at the city of Ashland website: <http://www.ashland.or.us>

Move to Amend Campaign Thriving in Jackson County

Move to Amend (MTA) is a national campaign to amend the U.S. Constitution to declare that only human beings are legal persons and money is not speech protected by the First Amendment. The primary strategy is to get governmental bodies across the country - cities, counties, and states - on record in favor of MTA, thus pressuring Congress to act.

Jackson County MTA was created at a meeting in Talent on June 9. Ashland MTA, Talent MTA, and Medford MTA organized as subgroups at that meeting. Led by John Tyler, the Ashland group has persuaded its city council to put an MTA proposition on the November ballot. Talent MTA has reason to believe that its council will follow suit. Grants Pass has a lively campaign going. Medford is the biggest prize locally, but the MTA group there needs more energy.

To get involved or for more information, contact John Limb jjlimb@ashlandhome.net or visit the website: www.MoveToAmendJacksonCounty.org

The next General Assembly meeting will be held 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., August 25, in the large community meeting room of the Medford Library.

Nationally, the MTA campaign has been scoring big victories. Appalled by the flood of money from corporations and extremely wealthy individuals following the 2010 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, hundreds of organizations have come out in support. U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously voted to endorse MTA early this month. So did the national League of Women Voters. Vermont became the first state government to endorse, and Los Angeles was the first city.

MRG Grant Deadline

The McKenzie River Gathering Foundation next General Grant deadline is August 31, 2012.

MRG Foundation funds organizations working on the following issues:

- Social Justice
- Human rights
- Racial justice
- Economic justice
- Environmental protection
- Peace and international solidarity

MRG Foundation pools money from Oregon's progressive community and distributes it back to grassroots groups working on a wide range of social change issues. To find out if your group qualifies, visit www.mrgfoundation.org/apply

GMO Free Jackson County Campaign Update

As you may know, our petition signature drive to get our initiative to ban GMO cultivation in the Rogue Valley has been held up in court past the time we would need to gather enough signatures to get our petition onto the November ballot. We anticipate resolving these issues next month and proceeding to collect signatures to place our initiative on the ballot in 2013.

In the meantime we have directed our energies to voter education campaigns to inform Jackson County residents of the real dangers GMOs present and a Campaign to convince the county commissioners to either put our initiative on the ballot for the November election or pass our ordinance into law directly. To accomplish this we have launched a post card writing campaign where we seek to gather thousands of signed post cards to present to the commissioners. We are asking them to acknowledge their constituents' concerns by placing the initiative on the ballot for the November election. If you can help distribute and collect post cards to this affect in your local communities or are interested in participating in this campaign, please Contact Jason Pennell (541-601-4782 or critical.roots@gmail.com)

Note from the Editor

By Vanessa Houk

I told myself that I was not going to write about the shooting in Aurora, Colorado or about the gun culture which make such violence a continuous part of our lives. Then I went and saw Party People at OSF. The audience was pulled into the struggles of the Black Panthers and the Young Lords through song and story and with foot stomping, rhythmic beats. I think collectively we all felt some ownership of a political movement. I saw it in the eyes of the people in the audience and it was evident when the crowd jumped to their feet for a standing ovation at the end of the performance. And yet as I left the theatre that afternoon and walked toward home, troubled thoughts filled my head.

The play explored some of the history of the 1960's and 70's civil rights movement and while acknowledging some of the gains that were made (better health care for Black and Latino people for example), from where I stand there is still so much more work to be done. Party People also touched on the violence of the movement all those decades ago, some of which was internal.

It is likely that you hear your own voice as you

read my words, unless you know me personally and can imagine the fluctuations and nuances of my voice. This is where theatre has an edge over the written word. Where OSF can give power to a voice, the written word is left to whisper, whimper or call with force entirely at the whim of the reader.

So knowing that, come along with me and gather the most powerful sounding voice you can muster. James Earl Jones comes to mind. There is one thing I want to say. Terrible violence can kill people, but even an arsenal of weapons can't kill thoughts and ideas.

We are all so afraid of each other. Our violent culture fosters that and every time we hear another story about a shooting or any intentionally harmful act, our fear grows a little bigger. As long as we can see each other as "other", it is far easier to dismiss one another's struggles, easier to ignore our collective pain. We can't be afraid of each other. There's no room for fear anymore. We have to recognize that we're one of the same.

The Occupy Movement is all about peace, but we do have weapons. We have words and a platform and together we know that our voices hold power.

A Rogue Climate For Southern Oregon

By Alan Journet

That climate change affects are not far in the future to be suffered by generations as yet unborn should be clear to anyone watching the weather patterns across the nation; consequences are here and now. Fortunately, the Ashland-based Geos Institute, collaborating with the USDA Forest Service Northwestern Research Station has produced reports identifying the current and future trends for the region. Since Americans seem to have little interest in addressing the issue, projections using the business as usual set of assumptions are probably the most relevant to our future since they assume we will do little to reduce our fossil fuels consumption and address the root cause of climate change. It is expected that our excessive reliance on fossil fuels in transportation and for generating electricity will likely continue unabated.

Temperature projections suggest that by mid-century our region will experience an annual warming of between 2 and over 30F while by late century this will reach between 4 and over 80F. All seasons will likely not warm to the same extent, however: summers are projected to warm much more than winters, increasing between 2 and 4.50F by mid-century and between about 5.50F and nearly 120F by late century. August could reach 150F warmer. Winters, meanwhile, will likely not be as elevated, increasing to between 1.5 and over 30F by mid-century and about 3 to 60F by late century.

Along with these elevated temperatures heat waves will become more pronounced with many more summer days over 95 and 1000F, droughts increasing in intensity and duration, and wildfires probably consuming more of forests.

Meanwhile precipitation, with greater possible variability, will likely bring us an overall annual reduction between 4.5 inches and very little change by mid-century and somewhere between a reduction of 5.5 inches and an increase of nearly 12 inches by late century. However precipitation patterns change, less will likely fall as snow at high elevations with more falling as rain at lower elevations. This will result in reduced winter snowpack and stream flow peaking earlier leaving reduced water for critical summer and fall irrigation needs. The key message is that historical patterns will no longer serve as indicators of what to expect in the future.

With the federal government largely out of the game as a result of dawdling by representatives many of whom argue the fossil fuel corporate line that solid climate change science is a hoax, it is time for individuals to take action. Interested residents should consider attending 'Our Changing Climate' on August 6th from 7:00 to 9:00 in Room 118, Science Hall on the SOU campus to learn about what is happening in the Rogue Valley, and consider becoming a charter member of a local grassroots organization dedicated to addressing climate change. For program information visit: http://kaconjour.com/Climate_Change/OurChangingClimate/index.html.


For local organization information contact alan-journet@gmail.com. The local organization's first meeting will be on September 25th in the Adams Community Room of the Medford Public Library at 6:30 or 7:00pm.




Finally saw the new Batman movie...

By Jason Houk

I did enjoyed it, though I don't see why folks call it a put down on the OWS movement. Certainly the mercenary army of Bane did not resemble the activists of Occupy. The nihilist Bane was no more class conscious than the lumpens and criminals he claimed to liberate. Really the closest we came to identifying the concerns of Occupy was a few lines from Catwoman, but that was to justify stealing all she could before the storm. On the contrary, the movie was more a revelation of the ruling class fear of being judged by the people they exploit. From what we now know about LIBOR, the Stock Exchange scene was a hoot... Just sayin' if anyone symbolized the 99% it is The Batman himself... Until now I've always considered Batman a hero of the ruling class, ie. Wayne Enterprises. Spoiler alert: just like the Occupy movement, Batman steps up and takes a beating and still saves the day while politicians and police sit idle and helpless.

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Rogue Valley Residents tell Walmart: “We Cannot Afford You”

On Wednesday, August 15, Rogue Valley residents concerned about the effect a new South Medford Walmart Super Center will have on the local economy will hold a press conference rally during the store’s grand opening to bring attention to the negative impacts of Walmarts policies and call for an end to the “Walmartization” of local jobs.

Demonstrators will include members of Medford R.A.W. (Residents Against Walmart). Local business owners, Walmart employees, community organizations, faith leaders and union members who have united in a growing campaign to bring attention to the negative impacts of Walmart on our local economy and to make the retailer change the way it treats workers and our community.

Wednesday’s event will begin with a press conference at 5:00 PM and a rally at 5:30 PM. During the rally, speakers will call on Walmart to

stop its cycle of impoverishing communities and encourage shoppers to choose local alternatives to Walmart. The rally and press conference will coincide with Walmarts scheduled grand opening that same day.

Construction has recently been completed on the 176,500-square-foot store adjacent to the South Gateway Shopping Center at the old Miles Field baseball park off South Pacific Highway in South Medford. Rogue Valley residents have long struggled to hold Walmart accountable to the concerns of the community. In 2010 the Oregon Supreme Court ruled in favor of Walmart, ending a six-year struggle with local residents concerned over traffic and land use issues.



Oregon Court win on MERS

Via Rogueimc.org

The Oregon Court of Appeals has ruled that MERS is not the real beneficiary and thus does not have standing to pursue foreclosures. This is the ruling from a lower appeals court, the Oregon Supreme Court said it will resolve uncertainty surrounding the mortgage industry's controversial loan tracking system and its role in out-of-court foreclosures.

The state's highest court officially accepted questions sent to it by U.S. District Court chief judge Ann Aiken.

The questions stem from four cases challenging the legality under Oregon law of the Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc. and non-judicial foreclosures.

In mid-July the Oregon Court of Appeals ruled in a separate case that a record of past mortgage sales must be filed publicly in Oregon before an out-of-court foreclosure can begin.

It also said that MERS, the industry's private registry of mortgage transactions, could not act as a stand-in for filing the mortgage assignments in county recorders offices.

The mortgage industry created MERS in the 1990s to facilitate the rapid bundling and sale of mortgages to investors.

Homeowners nationwide have challenged the right of MERS and other lenders to foreclose based on poor or missing records of loan ownership.

Federal and state judges in Oregon have ruled differently on the issues, and industry insiders say the uncertainty has gummed up foreclosures in the state. Some lenders have moved to more costly judicial foreclosures in court instead.

A decision from the high court could take six to 12 months, legal observers say.

Even if it senses urgency in the matter, the court will take time to ensure interested parties get their say, said Jeffrey Dobbins, a Willamette University law professor who specializes in the appellate process.

"The fact that they took the certified question suggests they understand it's an important issue that a lot of people are interested in," Dobbins said.

In an email Keith S. Dubanevich, Chief of Staff and Associate Attorney General offers his opinion: "It is not my view that MERS is a federal issue. It is a national issue, but one that has to be addressed on a state-by-state basis as each state's land records and foreclosure laws are unique."

The Washington Supreme Court in March heard arguments on a similar set of questions but has yet to issue a ruling.

In an email from Project REconomy states, “The ruling, which stated that foreclosures with MERS on the title cannot be completed through a non-judicial process, was a huge slap in the face to big banks who rely on MERS to register mortgage transfers. About 60% of mortgages in America have MERS on the title. We are already seeing a huge drop in non-judicial foreclosures across the state.”

If you have MERS on your title, you need to know that this ruling may apply to your non-judicial foreclosure. If you need research help to find out if this applies to your situation, call Project REconomy at 541.690.8334.

To view the courts decision visit:
http://rogueimc.org/media/2012/07//18192.pdf

Weekly Oregon Occupy Foreclosure Call

Join the new statewide weekly phone call in coordination with Occupy groups across Oregon! Join us this week as we identify concrete actions to take across the state to stop foreclosures and protect our communities.

Mondays from 5:30pm-6:30pm PST

Follow the link to sign up for the call:
http://interoccupy.net/oregon-occupy-foreclosures



"Save Our Communities" Foreclosure and Debt Rallies

Medford August 18th from 6pm - 9pm
1801 E. Jackson (UCC Church fellowship)

We'll cover how foreclosures are affecting our economy and what we can do about it as well as homeowner victory stories presented by Project REconomy co-founders Nancie Koerber and Mark Thomas. Questions or RSVP email Amanda@ProjectReconomy.org

Monthly Review: A magazine for the 99%

By Ivend Holen

Monthly Review, America's premier independent Socialist magazine, with its trademark fist and 99% logo on the cover, had its initial opening article written by Albert Einstein, "Why Socialism?" in May, 1949. Published in New York City continuously since, the current editor is John Bellamy Foster, a sociology professor at the University of Oregon.

Available online at www.monthlyreview.org, the magazine has spawned a daily internet news blog, MRZINE, worth noting, mrzine.monthlyreview.org, also available as an email alert. The blog provides links to articles and editorials on the struggles of workers and ordinary people from around the world. Articles from conflict areas like Egypt, Syria, Libya, and Iran provide an up-to-date and alternative perspective differing significantly from the views of the mainstream media, and even some of the so-called "alternative media", such as "Al Jazeera".

In addition to such cogent articles from domestic and foreign presses, MRzine often treats its readers with scathing political cartoons and stunning poetry from artists around the world.

The adjunct Monthly Review Press publishes classic Socialist and Marxist writing not often available from big box bookstores like Barnes and Noble, or even Amazon, including such recent books as "Wisconsin Uprising", "The Politics of Genocide" (forward by Noam Chomsky), "The Rise of the Tea Party", "Cocaine, Death Squads, and the War on Terror", and "An Introduction to the Three Volumes of Karl Marx's Capital", to name just a few.



Occupy Grants Pass Summer Schedule

Weekly demonstration/rally Thursdays 4-5:30p.m. in front of the Josephine County Courthouse, 500 N.W. Sixth St., Grants Pass.

First Thursday demonstration/rally on the 7th St. Bridge near Riverside Park, 4-5:30p.m. Some members of our group will still rally in front of the courthouse on first Thursday as described above.

General Assembly is the third Saturday each month, 1-3p.m. near the white gazebo in Riverside Park at 304 E.Park St.,Grants Pass. **Demonstration/rally 12:00-1:00p.m.** on the 7th St. Bridge near Riverside Park.

For details, contact Jerry Reed of Citizens for Peace and Justice at 541-474-6847 or e-mail at vgr707@gmail.com.

Occupy Medford General Assemblies Saturday

Occupy Medford General Assemblies are Saturdays, 10 AM in Alba Park in Medford. Everyone is invited.

Occupy Ashland GA Sunday

The next Occupy Ashland General Assembly will be held on Sunday, August 5 at 2 pm. The assembly will meet at the entrance to Lithia Park. The General Assembly open forum is your opportunity to plug into the various actions and working groups of Occupy Ashland. For more information check out Occupy Ashland’s Group page on Facebook or visit their website: www.occupyashlandoregon.org.

Occupy Ashland Presents THRIVE



Movie Night @ Peace House!

Occupy Ashland movie night is the third Friday of every month. Come join us for education and discussion. Doors open 6:30, movies start at 7 p.m.

• **August 17th: Thrive**

For questions or more information please contact occupyashland@gmail.com.

Woody Guthrie Production supports Amigo Club

For those who love the music of Woody Guthrie, here is an opportunity to see the Camelot Theater August production, Woody Guthrie's American Song, and to support Ashland's Amigo Club at the same time.

Proceeds from the tickets for the August 8, 8 PM showing will be donated to the Amigo Club to support the Ashland/Guanajuato Sister City Program.

Tickets are \$25 a person and can be purchased by calling Victoria at 541-261-1906.

Anne Feeney Concert Raises Spirits and Money for Oregon Health Care



Southern Oregon's Anne Feeney concert dazzled over 120 people who gathered at Ashland's UCC Congregational Church in early July. This was the Rogue Valley's first HOT summer day and all those bodies in a non-air conditioned space made for one heck of a celebration. The church was plumb full of sweaty, smiling people celebrating with laughter and lots of song.

Sponsoring organizations included Womens’ International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Southern Oregon Central Labor Council, Occupy Medford, Citizens for Peace and Justice and Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice.

The benefit raised over \$1,400 to benefit Healthcare For All Oregon campaign.

RECONOMY Needs Volunteers to Fight Foreclosure Abuses

Sign up for a summer program to help with phone banking and projects to assist homeowners in Oregon in building and coordinating a statewide, grassroots movement against wrongful foreclosures and lost revenues to Oregon communities due to MERS and big bank fraud. Call 541-690-8334 for more information or visit www.projectreconomy.org.

Occupy Ashland Foreclosure Working Group

Occupy Ashland’s Foreclosure Working Group is now available for speaking engagements and house parties. If you, your organization or friends would like to understand more about how the Foreclosure debacle is affecting everyone's lives and not just home owners. For more information or to schedule an event, contact Project REconomy in Medford (previously Good Grief America). www.projectreconomy.org

SAVE THE DATE Occupy Ashland FIRST Open Mic Night

**September 10th
9 pm—Midnight
Ritual Evolution Piercing**

Citizens for Peace and Justice Presents:

The Strangest Dream

The inspiring story of Joseph Rotblat and efforts of the Pugwash Conferences to halt nuclear proliferation.

Nuclear physicist Joseph Rotblat was branded a traitor and spy after walking away from the Manhattan Project, which built the first atomic bomb. But, with Bertrand Russell, he went on to help create the modern peace movement, and eventually to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

You can watch this film and discuss it afterward at the next CPJ Film Night at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7th, in Lidgate Hall, Medford Congregational United Church of Christ, 1801 E. Jackson St., corner Berkeley Way, Medford. The

free showing on a large flat screen TV is open to the public. The film is one of the events of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Vigil, centered in Ashland from Aug. 6 through 9 and presented by Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom’s Ashland chapter and co-sponsored by CPJ and a number of other area peace and justice groups.

As more of us turn our attention to the dangers of global climate change, it’s easy to lose sight of the fact that carbon emissions and sustainable energy sources won’t matter much if we can’t forestall the development of weapons of mass destruction. The Strangest Dream, a documentary film about the life of scientist Joseph Rotblat, reminds us of the continued importance of the non-proliferation movement in today’s fragmented world.

Joseph Rotblat was a nuclear physicist who spent much of his life trying to ensure that ethics played a role in scientific research. He was the only scientist to leave the Manhattan Project on moral grounds, and he was a founding member of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. In recognition of the impact of his work, he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995.

The film travels from the site of the first nuclear test site in New Mexico, to the destruction of Hiroshima in the Second World War, to the site of the first Pugwash Conference in Pugwash, Nova Scotia. It describes Rotblat’s personal and professional achievements through interviews with his contemporaries and others who are familiar with his work.

For more information about Citizens for Peace & Justice, see: www.cpjmedford.org

The Ashland Free Press is Southern Oregon’s source for social justice news and information. AFP is a paper for the working class. AFP aspires to be a platform for voices in the community who are not often heard. We welcome content from writers, activists, students, teachers, and beyond and we are especially seeking articles and stories which are written from a local perspective.

Our editorial policies are as follows:

Our objective is to educate the masses about social justice issues. We hope to reach as many people as possible regardless of economic status or political affiliation.

We aspire to promote positive change. Aside from education, we are looking for articles which offer some solutions. Give us a call to action. Tell us what we can do to change the status quo and you’ll win our attention and admiration. Be creative and have fun and we may even ignore word counts. Articles of 400-600 words fit best.

Most importantly, *we strive to do no harm.* We want this publication to be accurate, thoughtful and fair.

Send submissions to :
ashlandfreepress@activist.com
or call the AFP Hotline 541-622-9483

Donating is easy. Checks can be made to “Ashland Free Press” to 258 A Street #1, Ashland, OR. 97520 . Connect with us at ashlandfreepress@activist.com or call 541-622-9483.

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GMO Free Jackson County meeting in Jacksonville


The second Jacksonville meeting of GMO Free Jackson County will be August 6th at 7 pm at the MacLevin's Whole Foods Deli, 150 W. California Street. This is an important event because the next day, the Jacksonville City Council plans to issue a resolution in support of a GMO crop ban asking the County Commissioners to pass a GMO crop ban or put it on the ballot. A large turnout can help support that resolution.

Some folks from GMOFREE Jackson County will give a short update about what's happening with the local initiative to ban genetically engineered crops from being grown in Jackson County, followed by a viewing of the film One Man, One Cow, One Planet. This film is inspiring - about a biodynamic, organic farmer from New Zealand who has dedicated the rest of his years to living in India and helping create an amazing network of organic farmers who are collaborating and sharing their growing knowledge and support with one another. There are now hundreds of thousands of these farmers supporting each other. Of special interest is how they have brought the soil back to life after GMO crops had been planted there.

In order for small farmers to survive anywhere in the face of the chemical, genetic engineering companies trying to take over the food, people need a model to work together for the benefit of all. In the midst of a lot of information about the struggles contained in this issue of organic farmers fighting to preserve their rights to grow natural food, this film is inspiring.

Support Community Radio
KSKQ 89.5 FM

**KSKQ's Massive Yard
Sale & Waffle Fest!**

 **August 25th**, breakfast starts at 7:30 AM. Waffles will be served until 10:30 AM and the yard sale ends at 3:00 PM.

This is a fundraising event to help KSKQ meet expenses and stay on the air.

KSKQ 89.5 FM
330 E Hersey St #2
Ashland, OR 97520
For more information call 541-482-3999

**The Weekly
Lowdown**
Concentrated Civics
Tuesday 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Exclusively at
KSKQ Community Radio
89.5 FM
Streaming www.kskq.org

Smoking Ban in Lithia Park

Ashland Police are cracking down on smoking inside Lithia Park. There is a no tolerance rule for open flame so be aware.



There are openings on several committees in the City of Ashland including Public Arts, Tree Commission, Audit Committee, Transportation and Conservation. Apply at City Recorder, 20 East Main Street.

Contact the Ashland City Council
Email correspondence with the Ashland City Council members are now channeled through an online form located at:

www.ashland.or.us/CouncilContact.asp

This form provides the opportunity for citizens to submit comments to the Mayor and members of the City Council. Your comment will become part of the City's public record.

PEACE HOUSE

**Ashland Will Be in Global Spotlight On
September 21, 2012
International Day of Peace**

International Day of Peace

Peace House has partnered with the global organization, Culture of Peace Initiative (CPI), to make this year's observance of the annual UN-sponsored International Day of Peace a memorable one in the Rogue Valley.

This year Mayors for Peace designated one affiliated city in each time zone to televise between noon and 1 pm. UNTV will stream sequentially as that hour moves from zone to zone. Ashland has been chosen to be THE city in the Pacific Time Zone to have its observance videoed and uploaded on the internet for global viewing in real time.

Mayor John Stromberg will read a city proclamation and preside at Ashland's observance. Various community organizations will participate during the hour, which will be held at Ashland's downtown plaza.

David Wick, Ashland resident, long active with CPI, came to Peace House in May with the proposal that we partner in this work, an invitation which Peace House welcomed. Since then, we've been doing outreach to various organizations. The Southern Oregon Chapter of the United Nations Association has agreed to take a leadership role in the Medford area, working with Citizens for Peace & Justice.

"Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding." Albert Einstein



Rotary Clubs, religious congregations, and schools have also been invited to participate. We hope you will encourage groups you are affiliated with to become involved as well. Please show up on the Plaza by 11 am. If you're unable to join us, you can participate by maintaining a moment of silence at noon, planting a tree for peace, or sharing with others what this momentous occasion means.

There are more ideas on the website of the International Day of Peace:

www.internationaldayofpeace.org

Contact Peace House for additional insight and information...and with your plans to participate.

541-482-9615 or info@peacehouse.net



Peace House
543 S. Mountain Ave.
Ashland, Oregon 97520
541-482-9625
www.peacehouse.net

Visit Peace House online for

- calendar of events
- Clear Actions newsletter subscription
- educational and activist videos
- programs, issues, and actions
- public forum
- volunteer and job opportunities
- donations

Peace House promotes nonviolence, economic and social justice, and the dignity of all people. We educate residents of Ashland and the Rogue Valley on relevant issues and organize for public advocacy and civic action. We help individuals acquire the skills of nonviolent living, and we foster cooperation among organizations that share our values.

If YOU share our values, we invite you to join Peace House and become involved with our many activities, programs, and campaigns.



Would you like to advertise in a newspaper which isn't a disposable product?

Are you tired of mainstream media's control over what you read and hear about? Are you a friend of the working class? Think that everyone should be heard? Do you own a business?

The Ashland Free Press is about to unveil a new business strategy, one that we think will provide a means for progressive people to identify local businesses that are owned by folks whose values reflect their own. We will be featuring ads in an upcoming issue of AFP, but don't worry. We're still committed to focusing on what we care about

the most—bringing you information about social justice issues that are affecting the Rogue Valley and beyond.

Advertise in the Ashland Free Press and show folks in the valley (people who vote with their dollars) that you care about issues that affect our quality of life. Each issue will prominently feature one local business on a "Community Connections" directory page. Ashland Free Press readers are known to share their copies of the newspaper with friends and relatives and we know that we have a following of people who keep

every copy! Businesses can benefit from more local exposure in a growing publication which fosters community. Ads start at just \$50 a month and our circulation continues to grow. Copies of AFP can be found throughout Ashland and in specific places in Talent, Phoenix and Medford. For more information contact Jason at 541-622-9483 or email to: ashlandfreepress@activist.com.



"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." ~ Mother Teresa